

OLL 84-4763
10 December 1984

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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SUBJECT: Procedure and Criteria for Congressional Briefings

1. Of late both our own front office and EPS have objected to DDO ops briefing of three Congressional staffers who have requested such. While there are bound to be exceptions to any rigid rules we might elaborate, nonetheless, we do need a better criteria for determining who gets briefed by which Directorate and on what topics.

2. I think we might begin, therefore, with those criteria now in use, such as [redacted] But we can't stop there. Who sees covert action? The Senate staffers on the SSCI, for example, are sub-divided into two groups, one of which, I understand, may read certain documents and information on covert action. The other sub-group, I gather, is less restricted as regards the access they have to matters dealing with covert action. How does this work? In connection with this exercise, I should also like to review existing OLL rules (if any) and those governing DDI briefings.

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3. In the above context, I'd like a list by name and position of those staffers now entitled to full briefings, briefings of lesser sensitivity, and finally, lowest general "howdie-doodie" briefings. How about members? Obviously we do not grant fullest information of a sensitive nature to any Senator or Congressman. But, if one of those gentlemen or gentleladies were to press for same, my impression is that the matter would probably end up on John McMahon's desk --thus constituting the "McMahon Principle" for determining a certain class of congressional access. But, is there any other better way to handle exceptions as regards the briefing of members? Obviously we should have some sort of procedure for doing the same with staff, as discussed above.

4. Please think about the above. I'll get us together on this sometime late in the week or early next. The purpose of our discussions will be to write the rules for who we brief on what subject, of course, to input from our own front office and concerned Directorates. Thanks.

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